Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 BIB-01 USIA-06 OTPE-00 FCC-01

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R 170747Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2452

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ETEL, SP, PO

SUBJ: RADIO LIBERTY AGREEMENT WITH SPAIN

REF: STATE 161014

- 1. FROM STANDPOINT OF U.S. INTERESTS, WE MUST TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION CONTINUATION OF AFC NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH ARE EXPECTED TO RUN AT MINIMUM THROUGH SUMMER AND EARLY FALL MONTHS. EMBASSY BELIEVES IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO "MAKE NEW PITCH" FOR RADIO LIBERTY BEFORE CONCLUSION OF AFC NEGOTIATIONS, SINCE IT POSSIBLE GOS MAY LINK AFC AND RADIO LIBERTY.
- 2. AMBASSADOR RAISED SUBJECT OF RENEWAL OF RL'S OPERATING PERMISSION WITH MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND TOURISM DURING INITIAL COURTESY CALL MAY 13. MINISTER SAID HE WAS ALERT TO RL STATUS, MENTIONED DUE DATE OF MARCH 1976 AND ADDED HE WAS STUDYING MATTER.
- 3. WITH REGARD TO RFE, GOS HAS BEEN EXTREMELY CAUTIOUS IN BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH PORTUGAL AND WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE RECEPTIVE TO PROPOSAL THAT RFE FACILITIES BE SHIFTED TO SPAIN IF GOP SHOULD CLOSE OUT THESE FACILITES. MOREOVER, GOS, WHICH OPENED OFFICIAL TRADE RELATIONS WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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USSR IN 1972 AND OTHER EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES EVEN

EARLIER, WOULD HESITATE TO INTRODUCE NEW FACTOR WHICH MIGHT COMPLICATE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT IN RELATIONS WITH THESE COUNTRIES.

- 4. IN ANY EVENT, AND IF IT WERE NOT FOR THESE SUBSTANTIVE CONSIDERATIONS, WE AGREE THAT SUMMER HOLIDAY, WHICH RUNS FROM MID-JULY THROUGH MID-SEPTEMBER, WOULD MAKE IT NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE TO FOCUS SERIOUS GOS ATTENTION ON ISSUE SUCH AS RADIO LIBERTY/RFE.
- 5. THEREFORE, RECOMMEND ABSHIRE/HAYS VISIT BE POSTPONED. RL REP GEORGE DENNIS CONSULTED AND CONCURS WITH RECOMMENDATION.
- 6. EMBASSY WILL KEEP MATTER UNDER REVIEW AND RECOMMND OPENING OF RL QUESTION WITH GOS AS SOON AS IT APPEARS ADVISABLE TO DO SO. STABLER

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Message Attributes

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